Presidential Installation of

Dr. Sylvester E. McKay

September 24, 1999
one o'clock p.m.

The Presidential Medallion was struck in bronze by
Richard Lee, Coordinator, Machining Technology/Industrial Maintenance Technology,
Pitt Community College, Greenville, NC.

The ribbon which holds the medallion was manufactured by
the North Carolina Center for Applied Technology.

Dr. Sylvester E. McKay

President
College of The Albemarle

History of the College

The genesis for a community college in Elizabeth City sprung from the vision that every person, rich or poor, should have an equal opportunity to obtain a college education. With this concept in mind, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Community College Act in 1957, enabling counties to establish their own two-year colleges.

On November 8, 1960, the people of Pasquotank County overwhelmingly voted their approval for a new college. Shortly after, on December 16, 1960, a charter was issued and the first Board of Trustees was appointed for College of The Albemarle. The college opened its doors to its first freshman class in September 1961, in the old Albemarle Hospital building on Riverside Avenue. Twenty-eight members of the first graduating class proudly received their degrees on May 31, 1963, more than eight percent of whom would go on to four-year colleges. What once had only been a dream had now become a reality.

In July 1963, the North Carolina Legislature adopted new legislation to authorize the establishment of a comprehensive community college system. College of The Albemarle was the first comprehensive community college in North Carolina, chartered under this legislation. In 1968, the college received full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Today the college has grown with expansion in its original liberal arts programs, as well as growth in the health, technical, and vocational areas. College of The Albemarle serves residents in seven counties of Northeastern North Carolina, including Chowan, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans,with campuses in Elizabeth City and Manteo and a center in Edenton as well as additional facilities and courses taught at other locations in the college's service area.

The college's sixty acre Elizabeth City campus is located on Highway U.S. 17 North of Elizabeth City on the Pasquotank River. On this campus, five major buildings provide space for classrooms, science laboratories, state-of-the-art vocational and training computer lab, the Learning Resources Center, and a 100-seat lecture auditorium. Also, included is the COA Community Center Auditorium which features a theatre stage and a 1,000-seat auditorium available for community use. The Technology Center is the newest addition to the college and will bring exciting new opportunities for students in the areas of distance learning and technology for countless years.

Additional college facilities in Elizabeth City include the Extension Center, located on Riverside Avenue, and the Learning Center, located in Edgewood Shopping Center on Parkview Drive.

The college's Dare County Campus, located on Russell Twiford Road at the intersection of U.S. Highway 64 and state road 345 in Manteo, provides classrooms, a state-of-the-art biology lab, a CD research library, and, soon, the Diane Baum St. Clair Technology Center. This center will provide expanded distance learning and technology-based opportunities to Dare County residents. Dare County residents have embraced their campus warmly.

The college's Chowan County Center, located in Edenton Village Shopping Center on business Highway U.S. 17 in Edenton, opened in December 1992. Provided by Chowan County, the newly renovated site houses a JobLink Center, classrooms, offices, a seminar room, and a student lounge. Residents of Chowan County have vigorously supported their center.

President
Sylvester E. McKay, Ph.D.

Today we celebrate proudly and formally acknowledge the appointment of Dr. Sylvester E. McKay as the seventh President of College of The Albemarle.

Dr. Sylvester McKay was approved by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges in January 1999 and began his new position February 1.

Since 1993, Sylvester McKay had served as the Vice President for Curriculum and Instructional Technology at Guilford Technical Community College.

Under his leadership there, the College added five new degree programs and developed more than 20 collaborative agreements with public schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges. Of equal importance, Dr. McKay had an uncommon concern for the uniqueness of each student and co-worker whom he worked with.

Dr. McKay has considerable enthusiasm and experience in the area of distance learning. He has presented papers on the subject to the League for Innovation, Conference on Information Technology, and North Carolina Community College Association of Instructional Administrators. He was also an esteemed member of the Distance Learning Task Force for the North Carolina Community College System.

Dr. McKay is a three-time graduate of North Carolina State University. He earned a B.S. in Psychology in 1975, an M.S. in School Psychology in 1983, and a Ph.D. in School Psychology in 1990. He also completed graduate work at Washington State University. In 1998, Dr. McKay graduated from the Executive Leadership Institute through the League for Innovation in Community Colleges. Dr. McKay is also a graduate of the North Carolina Community College System Executive Management and Leadership Institute. His background gives him a strong working knowledge of the community college system and its role as a motivator for the betterment of individuals throughout society.

President McKay and his wife, Sherrye, have two children: Shelby and Shelton. He is a warm and caring person who stands ready to make an already excellent College even better. We welcome him!

Presidential Installation of Dr. Sylvester E. McKay

Sonja A. Hibbard, Chair
College of The Albemarle Board of Trustees
Presiding

PRELUDE CONCERT

COA Band
Wayne James, Conductor

Dr. Lily Chou
Pianist

***PROCESSIONAL**

March of the Olympians ..... arranged by Paul Yoder — COA Band

INSTALLATION PROCESSIONAL

The Faculty Marshall
The Delegation from Colleges and Universities
The Administration and Faculty of College of The Albemarle
The Board of Trustees of College of The Albemarle
the Presidential Party
The President of the College

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS — Northeastern High School Air Force Junior ROTC

Star-Spangled Banner ..... Francis Scott Key — Dr. Lily Chou

INVOCATION

William A. Griffin
President, Roanoke Bible College

WELCOME

Sonja A. Hibbard

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Lead Me Lord ..... Samuel Lesley
With a Voice of Singing ..... Martin Shaw

First United Methodist Church Choir
Linda Young, Director

* The audience is requested to stand.

GREETINGS

FROM NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Dr. Mickey L. Burnim
Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University

FROM THE N.C. ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS
Dr. Harold E. Mitchell
President, Roanoke-Chowan Community College

FROM THE COMMUNITY
Jimmie Dixon
Chair, Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

FROM THE COA FOUNDATION
Jim Perry
President, College of The Albemarle Foundation

FROM THE FACULTY
Dr. Ronald R. Riccardo
Chair, Faculty Executive Senate

FROM THE STAFF
Sharon W. Fairchild
Director, Management Information Services

FROM THE STUDENTS
Owen A. Hassell
President, Student Government Association, Elizabeth City Campus

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
The Battle Is The Lord's ..... Yolanda Adams — Jacqueline Boyce

INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Presentation of the President — Anne-Marie Knighton
Member, North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges

Oath of Office — The Honorable Judge J.C. Cole
District Court Judge

Presentation of the President's Medallion — Sonja Hibbard

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — Dr. Sylvester E. McKay

BENEDICTION
God Be With You Till We Meet Again ..... J.B. Rankin — First United Methodist Church Choir

RECESSIONAL
Recessional ..... PloyHar — COA Band

Following the Installation Ceremony, please join us for the ribbon-cutting of the college's Technology Center

Delegates

1772 – Salem College
Dr. Judy Guillet Thorne

1834 – Wake Forest University
Mr. Russell Etheridge Twiford

1838 – Greensboro College
Ms. Dianne Pritchard McDowell

1852 – Mitchell Community College
Dr. Virginia Mitchell

1907 – East Carolina University
Dr. Caroline Ayers

1927 – University of North Carolina at Asheville
Mr. W. F. Plyler II

1947 – University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Mr. Patton McDowell

1957 – Wayne Community College
Dr. Edward H. Wilson

1958 – Guilford Technical Community College
Dr. Donald W. Cameron

1958 – Wake Technical Community College
Mr. Charles I. Bunn Jr.

1958 – Wilson Technical Community College
Dr. Cleve Cox

1963 – Rockingham Community College
Dr. Barry Weinberg

1964 – James Sprunt Community College
Dr. Mary T. Wood

1964 – Richmond Community College
Dr. Diane Honeycutt

1967 – Beaufort County Community College
Dr. David McLawhorn

1967 – Bladen Community College
Dr. Melva McCallum

1967 – Craven Community College
Dr. Lewis S. Redd

1967 – Nash Community College
Dr. J. Reid Parrott, Jr.

1971 – Paul D. Camp Community College
Dr. Patsy R. Joyner

Technology Center Ribbon Cutting

Please join the College of The Albemarle family in cutting the ribbon on its newest facility, the Technology Center, after today's Presidential Installation.

Funding for the Technology Center was made possible by the 1993 State Bond Referendum for Community Colleges, Pasquotank County, and private donations. The facility houses the faculty and staff from the Computer Information Technology Department, the Small Business Center, The COA Foundation, and Continuing Education Division. In addition, the building contains an information highway classroom, multi-purpose training rooms, and computer labs.

The new facility is dedicated to Frances and Harry Pinkerton for their generous contribution to the programs and facilities of College of The Albemarle.

Academic Regalia

The custom of wearing distinctive dress for academic ceremonies began in Europe in the Middle Ages. The clergy was the literate class, so early academic costume was patterned after that of the church. Scholars seem to have worn a heavy gown, usually black or brown, at all times. They also needed hoods and capes during the winter since they lived, taught, and studied long before the days of central heating.

In the United States, gowns first appeared for graduation in 1887 at Williams College in Massachusetts. The professionally-made gowns evoked favorable comment, and other institutions adopted the practice.

Gowns

The master's gown is black, with long, pointed sleeves hanging loosely from the elbow. The doctor's gown is usually, but not always, black. Three horizontal velvet bars adorn each large sleeve, and velvet panels extend down the front edges of the gown to the hem.

Caps

The "Oxford Cap" with its square, stiff crown is most commonly worn. The tassel hanging from the left side of the cap is black for masters and gold for doctors. The "Cambridge" model is a soft tam resembling an overlarge beret.

Hoods

The colorful hood draped from the shoulders is the most symbolic feature of academic regalia. The master's hood is three and one-half feet long, with a three-inch velvet border. The doctor's hood is four feet long with a five-inch velvet border. The color of the velvet denotes the academic discipline of the degree. Colorful silk linings identify the institution awarding the degree.

The Presidential Medallion

The College of The Albemarle Presidential Medallion was created for this occasion. It is an insignia which will be worn at commencements and other academic ceremonies.

The Medallion is based on the college's seal which was created in 1960. The official college seal consists of a rendering of a wooden house with the letter "alpha," the first letter of the Greek alphabet. This is symbolic of the first public school house in the State of North Carolina which was located in Pasquotank County. The seal also includes an open book which is symbolic of knowledge. The Greek letter "omega" in the open book is symbolic of the fact that College of The Albemarle was the latest educational institution to be established in Pasquotank County. This act was later superceded by legislation creating the present community college system under which COA was the first institution chartered.

The school house and book are displayed on either side of a torch symbolic of the flame of illumination and of the enlightening mission of the college. At the base of the torch is the date of 1960, representing the year in which the college was chartered. In the seal, the name of "Pasquotank County" is included to signify where the college's original campus is located.

Dr. Sylvester McKay chose to enhance the college seal for the Presidential Medallion by including COA's service area. The Presidential Medallion was designed so that the seven counties – Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans – appear in a ring around the original seal. This idea of inclusion is emblematic of Dr. McKay's vision for what a community college should be.

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Tammy Weaver

College of The Albemarle would like to thank
the following businesses for their contribution to today's festivities:

Miles Jennings Industrial Supply Co., Inc.

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Communities